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DU tense over PM's programme

With Prime Minister Khaleda Zia scheduled to inaugurate the 'Ekushey' book fair on Thursday, the Dhaka University campus has become very tense following threat and counter-threat by two rival student bodies, reports UNB.

Pro-Awami League Chhatra League has threatened to foil the Prime Minister's planned visit to open the month-long book fair at the Bangla Academy, adjoining the campus.

But Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of ruling BNP, taking up the Chhatra League challenge, vowed to resist any such move to foil the PM's visit.

Campus sources said the two rival student organisations were allegedly preparing for Thursday's "imminent" showdown.

Both groups brought out separate processions on the campus, almost simultaneously, Tuesday morning.

The Chhatra League procession-

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ists shouted slogans against Begum Zia while the JCD workers welcoming the Prime Minister to the campus.

Later, in the morning, at a rally at the feet of "Aparajeyo Bangla", the Chhatra League leaders accused Begum Zia as "killer, autocrat and a champion vote-dacoit."

The rally was addressed, among others, by Chhatra League president Examat Huq Shamsi, General Secretary Ishaq Ali Khar Panay and Bahadur Bepary.

After parading the DU campus in a procession, the JCD also held a rally in front of DUCSU Bhaban, addressed by DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman, AGS Nazimuddin Alam, Moniruzaman Motir, Mosharraf Hossain, Monir Hossain and others.

The DUCSU VP urged the Chhatra League leaders to "refrain from making provocative speeches which might destroy congenial atmosphere on the campus."

"It's quite natural for the Prime Minister to inaugurate the book fair...any attempt to illegally resist the Prime Minister will be thwarted by the JCD," he told the rally.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Chhatra Dal, a left-leaning student organisation, criticised the Prime Minister for agreeing to inaugurate the book fair despite protests.